

ADJUSTABLE POSITION RETAINING/MOUNTING APERTURE

Abstract of the Disclosure

An adjustable position retaining/mounting aperture is provided having an elongated slot, a pair of retaining arms, and a spring. One wall of the elongated slot has a plurality of depressions and ridges, this scalloped wall also forms an upper wall of the retaining arms. The retaining arms are mirror images of one another, with each having a wide main body portion and a narrow neck portion. The aperture is designed for use with plastic materials and, as such, the narrow neck portions of the arms serve as living hinges allowing the main body portions to flex within the aperture. The spring is adjacent to the retaining arms and comprises a thin strip of material in the form of an arch which flexes when one of the retaining arms is deflected enough to make contact with the spring. The arch shape of the spring tends to urge the retaining arms back to their original position. A fastener inserted in the aperture can be moved, for purposes of adjustment, by sliding the fastener in the slot causing it to ride up one of the adjacent ridges. When the fastener rides up the ridge the retaining arm flexes at the neck portion and is deflected into contact with the spring causing it to deflect. As the fastener moves over the ridge and is seated in the adjacent depression, the retaining arm is allowed to flex back into position, being urged upwardly by the spring. The resilience of the retaining arm and the spring provides sufficient force to maintain the fastener in the selected position until enough force is applied to slide the fastener into another position. The fastener can be moved to, and retained in, different locations in the slot in order to find the optimal fit before it is securely torqued.

Assignment

The entire right, title and interest in and to this application and all subject matter disclosed and/or claimed therein, including any and all divisions, continuations, reissues, etc., thereof are, effective as of the date of execution of this application, assigned, transferred, sold and set over by the applicant(s) named herein to Deere & Company, a Delaware corporation having offices at Moline, Illinois 61265, U.S.A., together with all rights to file, and to claim priorities in connection with, corresponding patent applications in any and all foreign countries in the name of Deere & Company or otherwise.